The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 30, 1912, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 4, NO. 51 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1915. WHOLE NO. 207

RESULTS OF CONVICT LABOR

Tennessee's State Prison a Place of Horror.

LAW MAKERS' SCATHING REPORT

Men and Women Employed in Workshops Flogged Because of Unsatisfactory Work.

Nashville, Tenn., March 20.—The evils of convict labor are vividly illustrated in a report made public by a committee appointed by the legislature to investigate the state prison. The disclosures are sensational, and the many indictments and conditions of this institution are clothed in the most scathing language, of which the following is a sample:

"The state of Tennessee has been guilty of murdering those whom society has confined, after full conviction, and the state has been guilty of the most merciless neglect of those who were friendless, penniless and sick, who, in many instances, placed their lives at the mercy of the tribunals of the communities."

The committee continues:

"The evidence we found have served to arouse in us a deep sense of condemnation of a state so powerful for having exercised so little care carelessly in the treatment of those whom society has imprisoned."

The prison hospital is referred to in these stinging terms:

"A disgrace to the state and breeding ground for every germ known to modern science."

The committee is equally vigorous in its condemnation of the practice of whipping prisoners—both men and women—for alleged unsatisfactory work done during the day, or what is classed as "bad work," meaning work unsatisfactory to the guards. The records show 105 prisoners with tuberculosis have been "severely whipped." The men were lashed from 150 to 200 times, the women fifty times. The committee states that few of the inmates working in the factories escaped this punishment. Added to this is the horrors of the insane ward, in one of the prison's wings, where hundreds of prisoners, compelled to work at their tasks ten hours a day or more, locked in cells that are kept awake nights because of the ravings of insane convicts.

The report recommends many changes in the prison management. Included in these is the abolishment of corporal punishment and the establishment of the honor system.

PASS WAGE ORDINANCE.

Portland, Ore., March 20.—The municipal council has passed a wage ordinance, despite opposition by the Employers' association. The representative was hissed when he charged Mayor Albee with "playing politics" because he favored it. The mayor said:

"There is only one basis for, solving the industrial problems, and that is to give a man a decent wage by which he may have plenty to eat, may educate his children and may have something for old age. Industrial conditions will never be permanently settled until we get on that basis."

In urging the adoption of the ordinance, President Smith of the Central Labor Council said:

"It is strange that when an employer wants to specify that the work working for him that it is called 'business' but when those same men come to the employer and ask for better wages and conditions it is called sentiment, charity or any other pet quests are granted the action is heralded to the world as philanthropy."

The ordinance specifies that the city's scale of wages shall be the standard for laborers on public work under contract.

CARPENTERS TO ORGANIZE.

Baltimore, Md., March 20.—General President Kirby of the Brotherhood of Carpenters is in the city addressing a series of meetings of these workers, called for the purpose of perfecting an organization campaign. The carpenters' executive urged thorough organization and declared that this city's wage scale is lower than several hundred smaller cities, where the minimum is 50 cents, while Baltimore workers receive 42 1/2 cents. President Kirby referred to conditions secured in Philadelphia, through unionism. The carpenters have secured a two-year agreement with practically all the general contractors to conduct union shops and to engage all carpenters through the medium of the local union. The agreement is to become effective May 1, and the carpenters have reduced their hours to 32. The gain have resulted in large additions to the membership rolls of the Quaker city unions.

ISSUE AN INJUNCTION.

Newark, N. J., March 20.—Vice Chancellor Howell has called the attorneys of the unionists to argue on the necessity for an anti-injunction law for New Jersey courts similar to the Clayton federal law, by the issuance of a sweeping writ against striking butchers. The Employers' Council, several other organizations and numerous individuals. The firm of A. Fink & Sons, pork packers, have charged the president of the Butchers' union and declared for the non-union men. On the firm's request, Vice Chancellor Howell issued a temporary order restraining the unions "from interfering with the business of the complainant." The unionists are cited to appear next Tuesday and show reasons why the allegations in the order should not be made permanent.

CONVICTS MISTREATED.

Montgomery, Ala., March 20.—Brutal treatment of prisoners in Alabama convict camps, including excessive forms of punishment that sometimes result fatally, was charged May 19 by Rev. Tyson, a prison chaplain, before a special legislative investigating committee. The clergyman declared testimony was based on personal investigations by himself, and declared he had personally witnessed many scenes of indescribable horror and cruelty. He said prisoners had been whipped to death in some cases, to severe beatings and had been forced to perform dangerous tasks.

ALL-STEEL CARS PROTECT.

Washington, March 20.—In connection with a derailment on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Woodlyn, Pa., on September 19, 1914, the safety appliance division of the interstate commerce commission reports that the "facts developed strengthen previous recommendations that the greatest protection to passengers is to be secured unless they can be assured by the use of all-steel cars."

In the derailment thirty persons were injured, more or less seriously.

GRANITE MEN RAISE WAGES

Quincy, Mass., March 20.—International President Duncan of the Granite Cutters' International Association of America announces decided gains have been made by members of that organization the past month as a result of conferences.

In Vermont over 3,000 granite cutters, and associate workers, including apprentices, will profit by new agreements. The old wage rate was based on a minimum of $3.50 per day for an eight-hour day and a forty-five hour week. The new agreement which were effected by the minimum policy of the association, and which calls for not less than $4 per day, after the early spring of 1916, provide for 42 cents per hour minimum from March 1, 1915, to May 15, 1916, and 50 cents per hour thereafter for an eight-hour workday and a 44-hour work week.

A number of other regulations affecting sanitation and other provisions helpful to the health and welfare of workers in this industry are included.

At Redstone, N. H., a joint committee of employers and employes have perfected a new agreement providing for five years, beginning May 1, 1915. The old agreement provided for 40 cents per hour. The new provides for a 44-cent minimum the first year and a 50-cent minimum for the remaining four years.

At Frankfort, Hallowell and Rockport, Me., the granite cutters have increased wages from 42 to 44 cents per hour, and beginning with March 15, 1916, and March 15, 1917, to 46 and 50 cents per hour minimum. In all three places there is an eight-hour workday with a 44-hour work week.

WORKERS SHOT IN THE BACK.

Roosevelt, N. J., March 20.—Famine followed wage cuts in the fertilizer industry here, according to testimony of Dr. Joseph Wantoch, physician of the Chrome section of this borough, in testifying before the assembly committee which is investigating the recent strike in which two men were killed and a number injured. "They didn't seem to have enough to eat," said the physician. In describing the shooting of strikers by armed deputies, Dr. Wantoch said he attended eight of the twelve men injured, and all of the eight all but one had been shot in the back.

Joseph Jaeger, a carpenter, employed at the fertilizer plant, was an eyewitness to the shooting. He testified that the train load of deputies pulled into the station, one of the leaders shouted, "Shoot 'em all up!" The deputies then shot from under the train at the strikers on the other side and drove off. Jaeger was struck by seven. Jaeger said there was no reason for the shooting.

EIGHT-HOUR LAW UPHELD.

Washington, March 20.—Justice McCoy, of the District of Columbia Supreme court, has upheld the District eight-hour law, which prohibits the employment of laborers in certain establishments and avocations for more than eight hours in any one day or forty-eight hours in any one week. The court said that when the legislature used the words "or more than six days in any one week" the statute is identical with the state law which was held constitutional by the Supreme court of the United States, February 24, 1908.

A local hotel asked that the law be held unconstitutional on the ground that it abridged the rights of the owner under the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution was also advanced. Justice Siddons and Justice McCoy was asked to set the law aside because it deprived employers and employes of their property "without due process of law."

BAKERY WORKERS' NOVEL PLAN

Chicago, March 20.—A portable bake shop, to be used in future contests with employers, has been planned by the international executive board of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union, according to orders of the convention, held in Milwaukee, last September.

The bake shop will be held in readiness at Chicago to be shipped where trouble with employers may arise. It will be possible these unionists to turn out 5,000 loaves of union-made bread in eight hours, or 15,000 loaves in three eight-hour shifts per day. The plan involves an expenditure of $5,000, and bakery workers declare it is the most effective to checkmate a favorite move of employers, who would combine, and thus force out the unionists, who found it impossible to supply the demand for union-made bread.

LABOR LAW CASES ADVANCED.

Washington, March 20.—Cases involving the constitutionality of the New York alien labor law, which provides that only citizens should be employed on public works, has been advanced for argument by the United States Supreme court to October 12. The court has already enjoined the enforcement of the law, which was signed by the New York state court of appeals.

As a result of this decision the New York labor law has been held up by the providing that citizens should be given the preference for employment on this work.

VICTIMS OF GUNMEN SUE.

New Brunswick, N. J., March 20.—Damage suits to the amount of $120,000 have been filed with the clerk of the circuit court by striking brickyard workers who were shot by armed detectives in the employ of the American Agricultural Chemical company, at Chrome, on January 13. The actions, for $10,000 apiece, name as defendants the twelve cases. All of the complainants were shot in the back. Attorneys for the strikers declare the filing of the suits no new problems in law, as it will be easy to prove the liability of the company.

TEN-HOUR DAY "DANGEROUS."

Lansing, Mich., March 20.—The Detroit street railway company will be forced into handling the ten-hour day law is passed by the state legislature. This calamity will surely happen, if statements by the company's attorneys are to be believed. Unionists, however, are calling the bluff. This is one of the history of remedial legislation, which is marked by similar prophecies, made with a subsequent signal to that of the Detroit alarmists.

LONG STRIKE SETTLED.

Port Angeles, Wash., March 20.—The strike of shingle weavers at this place, which has been waged for nearly five months, has been settled, the agreement providing for the day wage scale instead of piece work. The strikers are affiliated to the Timber-workers' International union.

"WHAT UNIONS HAVE DONE"

Indianapolis, March 20.—Under the above caption, the Mine Workers' Journal, official organ of the United Mine Workers' union, handles this much-discussed question in the following clear-cut manner:

"We have heard much of the benevolent intentions of employers of labor, of the great improvements in the living and working conditions of their employes they intend to bring about hereafter in the future, if only they are not interfered with by the 'agitators of labor,' but ever, when labor has appealed to Congress or legislature for safeguards against accidents, or occupational diseases, there will be found the representatives of these employers, opposing, through every influence they are able to wield, by threat, cajolery, or bribery, the passage of such law; and there, also, will be found the much-maligned representative of organized labor, urging the passage of every law that may safeguard life or health.

"There is not a law on the statute books of state or nation intended to conserve the life or health of those who toil but was proposed first in the halls of the labor union; was fought for, and won, in spite of the opposition of the employers, by representatives, of organized labor.

"And the same is true of every law for the protection of women and children in industry; every anti-child labor law, minimum or maximum hour law for women and minors.

"While the labor union is intended to prevent dire want rather than to relieve, yet there is not a benevolent society; certainly not a charity organization, that has as many practical work for the relief of actual want, or has a more comprehensive program for the welfare of its membership than has the labor unions.

"In times of sickness, or other undeserved distress, the union member will be a member of a labor union than of any other known society. The labor union will discharge its every obligation, and will go further than that. It offers aid to the needy ones with not the least stigma of pauperism. With true fraternalism it lifts those who have faltered, and aids them to help themselves."

REAL EFFICIENCY FAVORED.

Columbus, O., March 20.—At an open meeting of unionists in this city, President Wilson of the Pattern Makers' league, said:

"We are accused of opposing modern efficiency methods, but we are opposing only such so-called efficiency methods as tend to drive men to work beyond human endurance. We favor good efficiency methods.

"There is not a large employer who dares to oppose organized labor openly. Opposed to organized labor. Rockefeller recently declared publicly that he is not opposed to organized labor, but the matter what capitalists really think, organized labor has reached the point where open opposition to it is the loss of public opinion back of it.

"My idea of the value of labor alone labor unions have done enough to justify their existence. In addition, we have many advantages of organized labor. Welfare, better sanitation and shop regulations."

LONGSHOREMEN ON STRIKE.

Vancouver, B. C., March 20.—Repeated wage reductions have forced longshoremen in this city on strike. The strike has been on since March 1, when 40 cents an hour, in 1912, to 20 cents in many cases. In answer to the claim that wages of longshoremen are high, the union's press committee, in its statement, says:

"The casual character of the work would convince any inquirer that this is a false claim. In the overworked fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution was also advanced. Justice Siddons and Justice McCoy was asked to set the law aside because it deprived employers and employes of their property "without due process of law."

WOULD BUY BLUE SKY.

Hartford, Ark., March 20.—In an address to the United Mine Workers on the purchase of the Bache mine, former Governor State Auditor Sadler told these workers the Bache interests consisted of a hole in the ground and the title to the property.

The management of these mines declared for the nonunion shop, several hundred men were laid off, and efforts to checkmate a favorite move of employers, who would combine, and thus force out the unionists, who found it impossible to supply the demand for union-made bread.

WILL TEST RELIEF FUND.

Cincinnati, O., March 20.—Judge Cushing has decided against the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern railroad in the suit of dismissed employe, Joseph Bailey, former switchman, to recover damages. He contributed to the company's relief fund for six years, and states that when a worker leaves the service he is not reimbursed. It is further alleged that employes are compelled to be parties to this fund. The railroad asked that the case be dismissed, but the court refused and ordered a trial.

WOULD BREAK CONTRACT.

Knoxville, Tenn., March 20.—Several hundred men are out of work here on their hands because of an attempt to nullify a contract with the Barbers' union. The agreement was that the workers to start one-half hour earlier in the morning and quit one half hour later. This would make the workday from 6:30 a. m. to 8 p. m. The employers have reported that these changes will work "for the mutual benefit of both parties," but to this the barbers disagree.

HIGHER WAGES FOR PAINTERS.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 20.—It is stated that the firm of William Downie company, contracting painters, will increase the wage scale beginning April 1, from 40 cents an hour, the present rate, to 45 cents an hour. This will be the minimum figure. It is also stated that the company has operated on a non-union basis almost since its establishment. The increase will affect about 250 employes.

START A LABOR FORWARD.

Birmingham, Ala., March 20.—Ten thousand unionists for Birmingham" is the slogan of the "labor forward" committee in its appeal to workers.

HORSESHOERS ORGANIZE.

Galveston, Tex., March 20.—Journeymen horseshoers of this city have formed a union and affiliated to the International of their craft.

NO REST FOR ROCKEFELLERS

San Francisco, March 20.—The Star of this city makes this comment on the report of the House of Representatives mines and mining committee, that investigated the Colorado coal strike:

"The House committee condemns the recruiting of mine guards as members of the militia, and asserts that some of the militia seized the opportunity, while clothed with the authority of the state, to engage in various lawless acts; and that 'in other instances the acts were of an immoral kind, and of such a nature as to be unfit for publication in this report.'

"The Rockefellers must bear their share of responsibility for all these things. Their absence from the state did not in any way relieve them of responsibility. There may be some who will object to the House committee's report as 'public' on the ground as they now attribute the large number of unemployed men to what they are pleased to speak of as 'repeated attacks on business by agitators.' But spite of the opposition of the employing chorus of those who snore in their waking hours.

"If the report of the House mining committee is in any way an 'attack on business,' it is an attack on a kind of business that should be attacked—and abolished; the business of overriding state laws, of denying the rights of men, and women and children; of refusing to recognize that anything is due to labor, but dividends; the sort of 'business' that denies any right except that of owners of special privilege to do as they please."

MILLIONS OF ILLITERATES

Washington, March 20.—There are 5,000,000 men and women over ten years of age in this country who cannot read or write, is the startling statement contained in a report issued by the House committee on education, which favored a bill to appropriate $15,000 to enable the federal commissioner of education "to devise methods of greater efficiency for the elimination of adult illiteracy in the United States." This bill failed to pass the last Congress, although it was urged that the millions of illiterates would be reduced to one per cent of the population within ten years.

In favoring this appropriation the committee on education says:

"Fully 75 per cent of illiterates are young men and women with many years of life before them to be lived out with the handicap of total illiteracy, unless they are encouraged and assisted in some of the branches. With proper encouragement and help most or all of these would learn to read and write and to do simple practical problems in arithmetic. Many of them would learn much more. They would then be better citizens and more profitable to themselves, to society, and to the commonwealth.

In addition to the more than 5,000,000 illiterates, it is shown by figures prepared by the census bureau that there are in the United States 15,000,000 or 20,000,000 men and women who can barely read or write.

A REGIMENT A MONTH KILLED BY RAILROADS

Washington, March 20.—A regiment a month is killed on the railroads in this country, while over fifteen times this number is injured, according to statistics issued by the interstate commerce commission. It is shown that during the three months ending September 30, 1914, there were 1,032 persons killed and 47,215 injured in railroad accidents throughout the country. Collisions and derailments numbered 3,685, with $2,343,511 damages to locomotives, cars and roadbeds.

OPERATORS EVADE DAMAGES.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 20.—In an effort to secure the benefits of the proposed state compensation law, Governor Tener, representing the United Mine Workers, told the senate committee on mines and mining that the compensation evade liability by advancing the argument that the men in charge of the mines—the foremen—hold certificates issued by the state, hence are agents of the commonwealth and that the mine owners cannot be made to pay damages. The miners want the mine foremen relieved of this responsibility. Acts substitute they urge that to qualify for foreman, a man must have worked two years at the actual work of mining and blasting coal in a chamber.

"DIRECT LEGISLATION."

Salt Lake City, March 20.—"Direct legislation" is what the sponsors for the Shields law, just passed by the senate, call it. The law provides for the initiation of legislation upon petition of 12 per cent of the voters of the respective counties of the state. To make certain nothing of a "radical" nature will be acted upon, the petitions must be signed by men who must be attested before a notary public. To make doubly sure, however, the law makes it illegal to circulate petitions

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, March 20.—The immigration bulletin for January, just issued by the bureau of immigration of labor, shows that the European war has caused American immigration to reach the low water mark—20,644. Of this number, 3,728 were reported as not having the price to purchase Japanese is 451. Of the total admitted, there were 2,145 laborers and 829 farm laborers.

During January of last year the number of laborers was 4,971, while the farm laborers totaled 7,313.

In the skilled and semi-skilled trades, the greatest drop is in the needle industry. In 1914, the number of tailors were 1,542; 1915, 178. Seamstresses, 1914, 624, and in 1915, 68.

The industrial states secured the larger proportion of those admitted. New York leading with 4,816. Agricultural states are practically ignored as the following will indicate: Kansas, 58; Nebraska, 14; North Dakota, 94; Oklahoma, 29, and South Dakota, 13.

TO GUARD TRACK WORKERS

Philadelphia, March 20.—Railroads have a higher duty in the protection of employes working on the tracks than of the pedestrians at public crossings, is the reason why Justice Mestrezat, of the supreme court, reversed a lower court and ordered that a judgment on a $5,000 verdict be entered in favor of Charles A. Van Sandt, who sued a railroad because he was struck by a train while working on a bridge.

Van Sandt claimed that the train sounded no warning of its approach as required by city law, and that the railroad to the plaintiff was of no higher degree than to one endeavoring to pass over its tracks at a public crossing. The lower court sustained this contention.

Justice Mestrezat took the opposite view in his decision.

"From the rights and duties of a person lawfully engaged on near any railroad track," he said, "are essentially different from those of a person about to cross such track at a public crossing. Two situations are entirely unlike when a person to pass over the crossing, is required to stop, look and listen before he proceeds. It is apparent that if a workman is to be constantly looking for an approaching train he would not be doing the service which he is employed.

"The railroad knows that the faithful performance of his duties prevents his constant watchfulness, and hence there is imperative necessity that the signal or notice be sufficiently adequate and timely that by the exercise of due care on his part he may escape a collision."

OPPOSE "COSSACK" BILL.

Trenton, N. J., March 20.—Labor made sharp protest to the senate judiciary committee on the proposal to appoint, under civil service, a detachment of a state constabulary, patterned after that in Pennsylvania. Assemblyman Bigelow, counsel for the State Federation of Labor, opposed the plan and said its friends had evidently received the impression that the services of a strike could only be effected by force.

Mrs. R. Dickson, ex-vice president of the United States Steel Corporation, also opposed the measure on behalf of the bill. He acknowledged that antagonisms of Colorado trade unionists were "largely justified," but he was certain this would not be true in the case of a New Jersey state constabulary. Mr. Dickson is in hearty accord with organized labor —except in this instance. He is quite willing, however, to oppose a state police, are "following an unwise leadership." He told the committee that a lack of police protection is keeping corporations from coming to New Jersey. He said the action of the State Federation of Labor asked the members of the committee if this statement was not an insult to their intelligence.

PAYS ITS FIRST POLICY.

Madison, Wis., March 20.—After being in operation but three months, the state life insurance fund has had its first policy to fall due. Insurance Commissioner A. Keenan, of this city, who held a $1,000 policy.

The fund has outstanding 328 policies, representing $227,000, and on December 31 had a reserve of $21,000. The premium is a net level premium reserve on the basis of the American experience table of mortality, 3 per cent. After deducting funds held for dividends apportioned to policy holders and for policies surrendered, there was a net surplus of $1,976.78. The funds are invested in Wisconsin farm mortgages, which bear 6 per cent in this state. The dividends being paid by the fund range from $2.34 to $12.42 per $1,000 of insurance.

"BILL" WILSON IS PRAISED.

Washington, March 20.—At a complimentary dinner tendered Secretary of Labor Wilson by his associates in the Department of Labor, President Wilson wrote this note to the "genial manager of the United Mine Workers' union:

"My Dear Bill Secretary: May I not send you this line of cordial good wishes? I have learned with the greatest interest of the complimentary dinner which the employes of the Department of Labor are to tender you, and I want to add my word of congratulation. The two years that have gone by since the department was set up have been fruitful in interesting and important and beneficial work, and I congratulate you on the part you have thoroughly well deserved."

CHILD LABOR LAW IN DANGER.

Little Rock, Ark., March 20.—There is serious danger that the child labor law, enacted by a large referendum majority last fall, may be destroyed if a bill now pending in the legislature is passed. The bill repeals the law by exempting from coverage in the state from the important sections of the act except the portion where children under 14 shall work in certain specified dangerous occupations. It does away with the minimum age limit, and makes it a misdemeanor to make it illegal to circulate petitions

STRONG UNIONS BRING RESULTS.

London, England, March 20.—The Transport Workers' Federation has submitted claims for higher wages, which Lloyd George, in a speech, made this comment:

"Only those unions and those districts which have had sufficient courage to voice their own claims will receive attention. Those who have not had been a strong trade union backing behind the claims put forward."

WOMEN'S LAW RETAINED.

Dover, Del., March 20.—The state senate has defeated the Beckman bill, which would uncork the 10-hour law for women. The bill would have made longer hours daily, provided "they were physically fit." The bill was signed by the governor, but the canning operators who assured the legislators their employes desired to work longer hours, have failed to get a repeal of the law. By a vote of 11 to 4 the senate refused to agree with the house bill.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS ASSURED.

Topeka, Kan., March 20.—Pensions for mothers is now practically assured in this state. The state senate has been accepting in amended form the Bird bill, passed by the house. The bill provides for methods of enforcing the law, and this question will be settled by conference.

REPORT ON JITNEY BUSSES

Washington, March 20.—Jitney busses are seriously affecting the income of the Vancouver street car company, according to Consul General Mansfield, stationed in the British Columbia metropolis, who makes an extended report on this subject to the Federal department of commerce.

The consul general says there are about 250 busses operating on city and suburban lines. The financial feature of this new movement is discussed as follows:

"The average daily earnings are reported to be $3 per each car, the aggregate over $80,000 per month. This competition has reduced the earnings of the electric railway and also affected the city revenues, as the municipality receives a percentage of the earnings of the street railway company, aggregating $7,000 per month, in normal times. The report of the British Columbia Electric Railway company, which has an exclusive franchise in Vancouver, for January of this year shows that during the month there was a decrease of 1,118,323 in the number of passengers carried as compared with the corresponding period last year, when 3,364,062 passengers were carried.

"In January, 1915, the street car company paid $1,316, or 2 1-2 per cent, to the city's fund as the result of the profits; this year the check amounts only to $1,316, a decrease of 2 1-2 per cent. The city's loss at the end of 1915, if this rate is maintained throughout the year, will amount to about $30,000.

"The establishment of an autobus system in Vancouver has provided wide employment for a large number of men, and brought into use automobiles which, otherwise, would have been used for pleasure. The rapid increase in the number of busses during the first six months of their appearance in Vancouver and the increasing popularity of motor vehicles as a means of transportation will soon give them a monopoly in passenger traffic on the streets of the city."

VALUE OF COMPENSATION LAW.

Fresno, Cal., March 20.—"Prior to the passage of the workmen's compensation act, 18 per cent of California's dependent children were such owing to because their fathers had been killed while trying to earn a living. We have since had more cases from that source," said Chairman Neylan of the state board of control in an address in this city.

In discussing proposed remedial legislation, the speaker said:

"The board of control is advocating raising the age limit of aid from 14 to 16 years, and extending the school law and the child labor laws. It also hopes to eliminate for all time the necessity for aid from the many counties of giving aid in grocery orders, except in cases where such a course is deemed wise on proper showing. Under the vicious grocery order practice in some counties the grocer has been for many years a petty tyrant before whom a helpless mother had to bend the knee in fear of losing the aid needed for her children."

SUSTAINS RIGHT TO PICKET.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 20.—In the case of a unionist charged with "disturbing the peace," in connection with a strike of cooks and waiters, Judge Marshall Murphy, presiding in the superior court charged the jury as follows regarding the right of workers to picket:

"Employes, individually, or acting through a union, have a right to attend at or near the house or place where the business of the employer is carried on, for the purpose of peacefully persuading any person to cease to patronize such place where such persons are employed to work, and have the right to recommend, advise or persuade the public at large to cease to patronize or cease to patronize such place and have the right to peaceably assemble in any place in which they may be for a lawful purpose."

The jury decided that picketing was not a disturbance of the peace and discharged the defendant.

TELL STORY OF SWEATSHOP

Peoria, Ill., March 20.—Cigarmakers' union has issued a statement of conditions in the F. P. Lewis Cigar company's plant, where 140 unorganized men and women work. Since the union joined the union, but many of the strikers returned to work and have introduced the "speeding up" system and are compelling employes to work with inferior material. An additional cause of the sweat shop system as it prevails in cigar trust factories, is the fact that a union label is used in connection with the plant, where babies are to be kept during the while the mothers of them are employed. Many of these workers are earning less than $10 a week.

FAVOR SIX-HOUR DAY.

Alameda, Cal., March 20.—The Alameda Labor Council has indorsed a six-hour day proposal for the months of January, February and March, 1916. The action was urged by District Council of Painters No. 8 which embraces all the unions in Alameda, San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties. This resolution, it is hoped by its sponsors, will lead to the convention of the State Building Trades Council with the intention of making the six-hour day universal in the building trades of California.

ONE KIND OF "ECONOMY."

Olympia, Wash., March 20.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature to abolish the office of labor commissioner, as far as factory and shop inspection is concerned, and to turn the work over to the industrial relations commission. The advocates of the bill claim that the latter body, as it unionists point to the activity of the labor commissioner's office as the real reason.

CHILD MORTALITY.

San Francisco, March 20.—In an address to the San Francisco Labor Council, Frances Bradley, of the national child labor bureau, said:

"Nearly 25 per cent of the deaths among children are unnecessary, and uniform laws throughout the states and territories would prevent this waste. In some localities infant mortality is as heavy as one in five, and this is almost indefensible."

PAINTERS CONFER.

Toronto, Wash., March 20.—Delegates to the Northwest district council of painters, decorators and paperhangers of America are in session here. The district comprises Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The convention was chosen as the next convention city.

WAGES-BY-LAW DISASTROUS

Scheme Fails to Work in New South Wales.

REDUCTIONS AROUSE WORKERS

Employers Permitted to Raise Living Costs—Unionists Advised to Depend Upon Themselves.

Sydney, New South Wales, March 20.—Protests by trade unionists over the manner in which their wages have been lopped by government-established boards reached a climax in this city when the wages of hotel and restaurant employes were reduced from 30 to 28 per cent. Chef cooks in the higher class hotels have been reduced $5 a week, while waitresses have been cut $1 a week. The Australian Worker, published in this city, declares it to be "the most humiliating wage deal that has yet been delivered by any wages board in New South Wales." The paper also said: "Not only did the board reduce wages from about 29 to 25 per cent in hotels and restaurants, but it went behind the backs of the Employers' Association and reduced the wages of employes in the suburbs, where the employers' association made no request whatever."

The unions will protest against the new award by conducting a campaign of publicity against the wages they are now forced to accept. It is announced that a "fair list" will be issued, containing the names of the firms refusing to grant increases. He says:

"If the employer happens to be dealing in the necessaries of life he may go to the Necessary Commodities' Commission, and if he can justify his claim to increase the price of his commodity, he may do so. The employes, on the other hand, no matter what the increase may be in the cost of living, or increase in wages, because the country is at war. We are told to look forward to the time when claims to an increase to the arbitration court. Prices may be increased and our purchasing power is thereby reduced, but wages must remain stationery until the war is over."

The above was written Judge Heydon, of the industrial arbitration court, has modified his decision that "employers cannot combine" increase. The court acknowledged this action was taken because of the attitude of the trade union movement, whose members have been aroused by this unexpected show of power over them by the courts.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION.

Bangor, Wales, March 20.—How war destroys individual liberty is illustrated in a hint by Lloyd George, in a speech in this city, that the British government may resort to compulsory arbitration because of numerous strikes for wages and wage demands of workers, forced on them by increased living costs. The premier declared:

"There is a good deal to be said for, and there is a vast amount to be said against, compulsory arbitration. But during the war the government ought to have power to settle all these difficulties, and the men should go on."

London, March 20.—In a speech before the House of Lords, Lord Kitchener, secretary of war, urged the necessity for the passage of a measure by the government to take over factories for the production of war material. The "defense of the realm" act, now in force, gives the government power "to do any act involving interference with private property" which is necessary for war purposes.

MANY WORKERS KILLED.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 20.—Increase of 50 per cent in deaths on the steam railroads of Pennsylvania during the last half year, is the startling statement issued by the state public service commission. During this period 562 persons were killed and 6,728 were injured.

There were four passengers killed and 1,107 injured during the first six months of 1914 as against eleven killed and 690 injured in the same period of 1915. Little Rock, Ark., in the first months of 1914, 146 employes were killed and 3,971 injured. Of the fatality injured, eighty-four were struck by trains and twenty-three met death by falling or jumping on locomotives or cars. This is a decrease of thirty-four in number of employes killed and an increase of 498 in the number of injured. Forty-three of the killed were brakemen and thirty-nine section men.

DYE WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Chicago, March 20.—After a short strike members of the Dye House Workers' union secured improved conditions. Those employed at Standard Dye House company and have returned to work. The strike involved a demand by the company that hereafter it would hold back a week and two days' wages. The former rate was a weekly pay day and the new arrangement would leave employes always a week and two days in arrears. The demand was granted and all returned to work. A protest resulted in an order by the manager to discharge the entire force, but the presence of the order was so unanimous that the company secured peace by consenting to the terms of settlement and an agreement followed.

ATLANTA UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Atlanta, Ga., March 20.—Trade unionists in this city are active. Their "labor forward" committee declares its purpose to be "to consolidate the forces in the labor movement." Committees have been appointed to visit unions to secure their co-operation and to increase the membership of the locals. Open meetings will be held in the auditorium of the building occupied by the labor temple.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

East Liverpool, O., March 20.—Organized street car men of the Pittsburgh Steubenville & Wheeling Traction company have won their demands for better rights on the lines of the local Traction and Light company, and the strike has been declared off. The settlement was also agreed upon after a week's conference between the officials of the two companies called off the strike of May 1.